

days of great happiness and he left knowing that his bride Ann would be here waiting for him to come home. How these had to be wonderful thoughts and memories for Bill to take with him.

Now during the war the boys could not tell us where they were stationed overseas but Bill did write he had seen his first Kangaroo. Years later reading a book on Australian airfields during the war I would read where Bill and his squadron with their aircraft would come to Australia by ships. Here the aircraft would be offloaded, reassembled, test flown and on to New Guinea.

Now in New Guinea in about one month Bill would fly his last mission. It was a big one. 16 of those fighters were in that formation. They were flying a protective cover for some air transports. That flight would enter into a box canyon where the mountains went up to 10 and 12 thousand feet. The weather deteriorated so badly that the flight could not turn and exit that canyon. The pilots all had to break their formation and climb blindly up through the clouds. Bill never came up. In the days that followed, his good buddy then Capt. Roddy would fly search missions over that area but the jungle was not ready to give up its secret.

Now I was with the family that Sunday evening when the notice of a telegram came. You can imagine the thoughts, the fear, and the prayers that went through that family that long night for a war time telegram was most always bad news. Very early the next morning I drove Bill's dad to get that telegram. I will never forget the look on his face and what he said as he came back to the car.

He said, "It's Bill, it's Bill, he is missing in action. This will kill my wife." We had to take this news back home. I can still see Mom and all the sisters on the back porch as we drove in the yard. I guess they knew by his face that it was bad news. All that poor man could do was to keep trying to tell them that Bill was not dead, Bill was not dead, Bill was missing in action.

Two years later the second telegram came. Bill was presumed dead.

In the years that followed we lost Dad, Mom, and a sister, Jean. I can assure you that their thoughts, their hopes and their prayers were that someday Bill would be coming home.

Many, many years later while reading a book of the air wars in New Guinea, I would read in this book that Flight Officer Wilfrid Desilets was lost in the jungles of New Guinea forever. That's the way it remained for 53 long years. Then into our lives came the most amazing young man that I have ever had the opportunity to meet and call a friend. He is a successful businessman, a great writer, a fellow pilot but most of all he was an adventurer and a man with a quest. This man's quest was to find an aircraft that a great uncle had been lost in during this war. The uncle's body had been recovered some 14 years later. This man knows well what a family goes through. On his second trip to New Guinea high up in the mountains and deep in the jungle, he, with the natives, would find Bill and his aircraft. Now he notified the proper authorities and he knew that they could take years to make a recovery identification, and then notify a family. And he so rightfully thought that if Bill still had a family that they would be aging and should know. So upon his return he learned that Bill was probably from the Worcester area so he, with his secretary Arlean, started a massive telephone search for the surname Desilets. They were finally successful and notified Yvette, one of the sisters. Now when we first heard what this stranger said he had done it was unbelievable, but we learned he had done it.

Now as all of you might well expect there are not adequate words to express the feel-

ings that this family has for this man, the gratitude, the great respect, yes the love we feel for this man. so for today I am simply going to say thank you. Yes, thank you Fred Hagen, for without you we would never have had our day today. I guess Fred it is your day too for I have the feeling that you have adopted this family and I know we have adopted you.

We have met and made such wonderful new friends during this time. We have with us Colonel Roddy and a Colonel Benz, two men, fighter pilots who were in that flight with Bill on his last mission. You can imagine the honor it was for me to meet these men and talk and learn of Bill's last mission. We were recently invited to Bill's fighter squadron reunion. We went there as guests and came home honored members. We heard such wonderful stories and memories of Bill. One I would like to share with you today. It is from a letter that a Sergeant Iddings had written to Colonel Roddy when he learned Bill had been found. In his letter he expressed the great sorrow that the maintenance and ground support boys felt when Bill was missing. He also said that in his mind Bill's tombstone should be engraved with a blue ribbon and on it, it should say that Bill was a blue ribbon gentleman and a blue ribbon pilot. How I wish the Sergeant was with us today that we may thank him but he to passed away last year.

To you sisters if I may. We have lived with this tragedy most all of our lives. Now that we have what some may call closure I would hope that when you think of Bill or look at his pictures maybe your hearts may be just a little lighter and remember too Bill will always remain that handsome young man. He will never grow old as we have. I know too that each of you have your own special memories of growing up with Bill. Cherish them for they are yours forever.

I, for one, will always honor Bill for he was the type of young man who, as his country was going to war, would be among the first to volunteer and serve.

Bill was my hero for as a young man watching him fly his fighter made me want to be a pilot like him.

Now if we had to lose Bill during this war, then I am grateful that it would be while Bill was fulfilling his greatest dream, for Bill was a fighter pilot.

Today from here, Bill will be taken to rest with his Mom and Dad. Bill is no longer lost in that jungle. Bill is now home, home with his family truly forever.●

REFERRAL OF S. 28

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 28 be discharged from the Energy Committee and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REFERRAL OF S. 785

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent S. 785 be discharged from the Committee on Armed Services and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE PEACE CORPS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed

to the immediate consideration of Cal-endar No. 107, H.R. 669.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the measure appear in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 669) was read the third time and passed.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the appointment of James B. Lloyd, of Tennessee, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 13. I further ask consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate immediately resume consideration of the juvenile justice crime bill, S. 254. I further ask consent that at 9:30 a.m. there be 6 minutes of debate on the Hatch-Leahy amendment, equally divided in the usual form, with no amendments to the amendment in order prior to a vote at 9:40 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. SESSIONS. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and immediately resume consideration of the Hatch-Leahy amendment, with a vote to take place at 9:40 a.m. Following that vote, the Senate will resume consideration of the Hollings amendment on TV violence for the remaining 2 hours of debate. Senators can therefore expect votes throughout the morning session of the Senate, with the first vote occurring tomorrow morning at 9:40.

I further ask that immediately following the 9:40 a.m. vote, Senator BRYAN be recognized for up to 12 minutes for a morning business statement.